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## THE GARDEN CALENDAR

A radio discussion by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 48 associate NBC radio stations, Tuesday, January 10, 1933.

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From the reports coming to us, it is evident that you folks who live on farms produced a large part of your living the past year and that you canned and stored more fruits and vegetables for winter use than ever before. What's more the present indications are that even greater attention will be given to this "Live-at-home" campaign the coming year.

You are fully aware of the advantages of producing the greater part of your living right on your farms. With a good garden, home orchard, plenty of milk and butter, home cured pork, fresh poultry, eggs, honey and molasses, all produced right on the place, everyone of you can live like kings so far as your table is concerned. I believe that on the whole a good, well planned vegetable garden will contribute more to the living of the farm family than any other factor on the place. Under no circumstances can vegetables be so fresh or their flavor so good as when gathered from the home garden and served within an hour or two.

Welfare or emergency gardens have played an important role in the feeding of industrial people whose incomes have been greatly reduced during the past year or two, and the indications are that a great many of these gardens will be planted the coming season. Replying to a note of opposition to these welfare gardens, Mr. Geo. A. Sweet, President of the National Vegetable Growers Association of America, in his annual address to the members of the Association assembled in convention last August voiced his approval of welfare gardens during periods of depression, and urged the commercial gardeners of the country to support these welfare gardens by giving freely of advice, seeds and plants, or other aid. "These gardens," said Mr. Sweet, "will disappear when times are better and workers return to jobs, but they are serving the commercial grower by increasing the appetite for vegetables."

In no case to our knowledge has the planting of these welfare gardens been detrimental to the interests of the commercial industry, for the reason that the industrial folks have not had the money with which to purchase their supplies, and through their gardens they have become better customers for the vegetable growers when prosperity returns.

Those of you who live in the south already have your gardens started and you folks who live in the central sections can be spreading manure on your gardens and getting everything ready for an early start. You northern folks will have to wait some time, perhaps, before you can do anything in your gardens but you can have everything in readiness for an early start.

(over)



The next question is, what crops are we going to plant in our gardens? The best answer to this question is, I believe, to plant the kinds of vegetables that the different members of the family like. We want plenty of green foods such as lettuce, spinach, mustard, turnip greens, cabbage and kale in our diet, especially in the early spring. We need plenty of the substantials like potatoes, sweet potatoes, beans, sweet corn, tomatoes, beets, carrots, pumpkins and squashes. And, while not quite so important from a food standpoint I don't believe any of us will object to a big slice of nice, sweet, cold watermelon or muskmelon on a hot summer day. There are about 50 or 60 different kinds of vegetables for us to choose from, but 18 or 20 will include the more important ones for us to grow in our home gardens.

I believe it will pay many of us to plant a bed of asparagus for this delicious early spring vegetable can be grown in practically every part of the United States. The strawberry is about the only one of our small fruits that can be grown everywhere, and I believe that it will pay many of you to have three or four rows of strawberries in your gardens for your own use. Of course it will pay to grow raspberries, dewberries and blackberries in sections to which they are adapted. Look out for the currants and gooseberries for their planting is prohibited by law in sections where the white pine is an important timber tree because of the part that they play in the spread of the white pine blister rust.

Growing apples, peaches, pears and other tree fruits for home use is more open to question on account of the difficulty in controlling diseases and insects, but I believe it will pay to have a good small home orchard under many conditions.

In many of our gardens we have trouble with tomato wilt, cabbage yellows and other diseases that live over from year to year in the soil. I am glad to be able to say that our scientific workers are very rapidly turning out resistant varieties that can be grown under these conditions. The Marglobe, Break O'Day and the Pritchard tomatoes are highly resistant to tomato wilt, and the new varieties of yellows resistant cabbage are remarkably resistant to cabbage yellows.

And here is another point. You folks who have snow, ice and a late spring to contend with can speed up your gardens by starting plants of head lettuce, tomatoes, peppers, cabbage and broccoli in a hotbed. Many farmers are now building little sash houses that are heated with wood or coal stoves and are growing all kinds of early plants in these small, cheap houses. The main point is that we plan our gardens well in advance and get them started early.